

FINAL
2003 Montana HAVA Plan
AMENDMENTS



**HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT
OF 2002 (HAVA)**

August 1, 2005

**MONTANA
SECRETARY OF STATE
BRAD JOHNSON**

2003 MONTANA HAVA PLAN AMENDMENTS

Section 301 Voting System Standards (page 8 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: Since the adoption of the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan, several counties have purchased precinct counters that notify voters if there are problems with their ballots. The secretary of state decided that the mailing of the Voter Information Pamphlet, which occurs at least 30 days before even-year general elections, would be sufficient to reach registered voters without a special mailing to all postal patrons. The state intends to meet the private and independent provision for verifying votes as completely as possible through the use of precinct counters and voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities.

Planned Action: With current funds and the expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment, the state will continue the activities referenced in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan. The state will continue to assist counties in purchasing precinct counters. A major purchase will be the voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities, to be located in each polling place. The systems will verify how voters cast their ballots, prevent overvotes and notify voters of undervotes, and will meet HAVA requirements.

Casting and Correcting Ballots (page 8 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The secretary of state facilitated voting by assisting counties with buying precinct counters. During the 2005 Legislature, the secretary of state successfully advocated legislation, in House Bill 177, to more clearly define whether a vote is counted and what constitutes an overvote and an undervote, and to clarify the challenge provisions in state law.

In a meeting in March 2005, the state Election Reform Advisory Committee suggested using Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to promote the correct way to mark a ballot, the importance of voting, and how voting machines work to make every vote count. Committee members discussed how ballot counting machines might read “hesitation marks” as a vote, undervote, or set the ballot aside to be interpreted by the appropriate committee, and suggested using more precinct count systems.

Planned Action: The state will continue to assist counties in purchasing precinct counters to alert voters to possible ballot errors, and will provide a more extensive program to educate voters on casting a vote correctly and on asking for a new ballot if they spoil their ballots.

Audit Capacity for Voting Systems (page 9 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The 2005 Legislature has enacted the requirement that any approved voting systems must use a paper ballot that allows votes to be manually counted, except that a direct recording electronic system that does not mark a paper ballot may be used to facilitate voting by a voter with a disability under certain conditions. These conditions allow for the possibility that a direct recording electronic system that uses a paper ballot may not have been certified by the federal election assistance commission by the time of the purchase of the system, or a direct recording electronic system that marks a paper ballot may not have been approved by the secretary of state by the time of purchase. In either of these cases, the system must still record votes in a manner that will allow the votes to be printed and manually counted or audited if necessary.

Planned Action: The state plans to purchase voting systems consistent with HAVA and the requirements above. Rules will be drafted that will be consistent with HAVA and state law.

Direct Recording Electronic Systems (page 9 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The purchase of voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities and associated educational efforts have not yet occurred due to a requested and approved waiver until 2006. The voting system vendor fair in August 2005 will be essential to ensure the participation of people with disabilities (and the people who serve them) in the selection of the systems. Montana discussed the possibility of a buying pool with other states but determined that due to varying state laws this would not be feasible.

Planned Action: The secretary of state plans to purchase voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities in the year 2005 for use in elections starting in 2006. Public outreach on the systems is being scheduled and our Communication Plan will assist the secretary of state in targeting and reaching influential people around the state for education on the systems. Information about the purposes and proper use of the systems will be included in educational events and materials.

Accessibility (page 10 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: Many of Montana's polling places meet requirements for physical access, a number which has increased through the assistance of organizations that serve people with disabilities. The secretary of state's office contracted with the Montana Advocacy Program to review polling places for accessibility and to assist counties in making their polling places more accessible. The secretary of state's office provided funding for the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities to provide transportation to the polls on election day. The office also provided community-based organization grants to agencies that serve persons with disabilities to ensure that they could get the word out to their members and clients about accessibility. See Accessibility under Appendix C for relevant legislation.

In a meeting in March 2005, the state Election Reform Advisory Committee suggested the use of HAVA money to promote understanding and the need to make polling places accessible, especially county election offices. The committee discussed using funds for temporary accessibility accessories, as long as the main emphasis is on permanent accessibility.

Other specific suggestions included training election judges on the appropriate language and terms for communicating with persons with disabilities and on answering potential questions from persons with disabilities; training election judges on how things like moving a bench can make a polling place more accessible; training educators and students about the HAVA changes and the importance of accessibility; using the secretary of state's office to recruit, train, and oversee people to help with the systems equipped for individuals with disabilities; and training for use of CPR and defibrillators at polling places.

Planned Action: The state will, as fully as possible, implement the recommendations of the Election Reform Advisory Committee through training, rules and/or handbooks.

The state will continue to contract with the Montana Advocacy Program to train counties in completing accessibility surveys and ADA self-evaluation. The secretary of state's office will provide grants for the counties for consulting services, polling place accessibility, and additional education. We will work closely with Independent Living Centers and other organizations that serve people with disabilities and senior citizens to secure and train election judges who are members of these groups and who work with members of these groups. We will provide funds to employ election judges who are specially trained to assist the elderly and people with disabilities.

At the suggestion of advocates for senior citizens, we will recommend the increased use of assisted living centers as polling places, in order to better serve the aging population of Montana. We will also encourage election administrators to continue to issue duplicate voter cards, which are accepted as identification, to people who may have lost them. We intend to work with senior citizen focus groups to "field test" new programs as applicable.

Error Rates (page 10 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No changes.

Planned Action: We will as necessary draft rules specifying machine error rates.

Rules and Laws (pages 10-11 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: See Rules and Laws under Appendix C for relevant legislation.

Planned Action: Rules are necessary and will be written to implement new legislation and to specify the requirements for the statewide voter registration database and for systems equipped for individuals with disabilities.

Section 302 Provisional Voting and Voting Information Requirements (pages 11-12 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The secretary of state requested and received a waiver until 2006 for the statewide voter registration database, so this has not yet been used to verify provisional voters. However, the secretary of state contracted with the state Motor Vehicle Division to verify driver's license numbers given by people at the polling places as part of their form of identification. This was quite successful in reducing the number of provisional ballots. Counties notified voters in person, by mail and/or by phone to inform them whether their votes were counted.

Planned Action: The state will continue the actions specified in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan and will implement the changes to the provisional and identification voting process mandated by the 2005 Legislature. The state will work to ensure that all counties are following the posting requirements of HAVA by again sending all counties a list of those requirements.

Section 303 Computerized Statewide Voter Registration List (pages 12-13 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The state has selected a vendor for the statewide voter registration system and is determining technical requirements.

Planned Action: The secretary of state will implement the required system by January 1, 2006. This will occur through regional trainings, opportunities for all counties to voice concerns, comments, and support for the system, testing of the system, and on-site installation of the system.

Section 303 (b) Requirements for Voters Who Register by Mail (page 14 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No material changes.

Planned Action: No material changes.

Requirements Payments (pages 14-15 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The state followed the procedures in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan, with minor changes consistent with HAVA provisions, as described in the amendments to the Budget Breakdown.

Planned Action: The state will make minor changes in its spending, consistent with HAVA provisions. These changes are detailed in the Planned Action section of the Budget Breakdown.

Programs for Voter Education, Election Official Education Training, and Poll Worker Training (pages 15-17 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The secretary of state provided grants of \$5,000 each to over 90 community-based organizations to assist with education. After consideration, the state chose not to develop a “history trunk,” did not include HAVA information in utility bills, and did not send a flyer to all postal patrons regarding HAVA, because ongoing efforts were determined to be sufficient.

Planned Action: The secretary of state will continue the efforts in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan and intends also to develop a civics curriculum in order to educate young people about the importance of civic participation and voting. The state does not plan to award additional grants to community-based organizations. Our Communication Plan will assist us in targeting groups for education outreach, especially regarding new voting systems equipped for people with disabilities.

Voting System Guidelines (pages 17-18 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The Montana Legislature adopted new standards and requirements regarding voting systems.

Planned Action: The secretary of state will write system standards and adopt any other necessary system standards through the rulemaking process. The state will adopt additional rules clarifying whether a vote is counted.

HAVA Election Fund (page 18 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No changes.

Planned Action: No changes.

HAVA Budget (pages 18-19 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No changes.

Planned Action: The state is requesting additional funding in the amount of approximately \$7,446,803 for upcoming HAVA expenses.

Voting Accessibility (page 19 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The estimate of \$350,000 was nearly exact. The cost of replacing county punch card systems was \$360,000. The voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities have not yet been purchased.

Planned Action: The state has completed the punch-card buyout. Our current estimate of the cost of voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities is \$2,800,000, all of which is expected to come from our original \$9,150,000 Federal payment. Additional costs are estimated at \$500,000 and will come from our expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment. Costs for assessing and implementing polling place accessibility are estimated at \$2,000,000 and will also come from the expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment.

Provisional Balloting (pages 19-20 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No material changes.

Planned Action: The state will continue to implement provisional balloting. The state will especially assist counties in ensuring their continuing familiarity with the polling place elector identification form, used for electors who do not provide another form of identification.

Voter Education, Election Official and Poll Worker Training (page 20 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The state spent a total of approximately \$1,435,989.37 on Voter Education, Election Official and Poll Worker Training. This included community-based organization grants, HAVA trainings across the state, an extensive media campaign, and voter education activities at popular events.

Planned Action: We intend to continue most of the activities specified in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan. We do not plan to award additional grants to community-based organizations. We are drafting a Communication Plan to target and reach groups and organizations to give them new election information, especially regarding new voting systems equipped for persons with disabilities.

The total to be spent from the \$9,150,000 Federal payment for these activities is approximately \$177,233.56. The total to be spent from the expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment for these activities is approximately \$500,000.00.

Statewide Voter Management System (pages 20-21 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: Initial expenditures for the statewide voter system, known as Montana Votes, have been approximately \$1,003,593.87.

Planned Action: The state plans to use \$2,800,000 of the current \$9,150,000 Federal payment to pay for the system. The state plans to use \$1,500,000 of the expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment to pay for ongoing maintenance and training.

Precinct Counters Matching Funds (page 21 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The state spent a total of approximately \$440,887.30 to help counties to purchase precinct counters.

Planned Action: The state plans to use \$1,400,000 of the expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment to assist counties in the ongoing purchases of precinct counters.

Administration costs (page 21 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The state used its match money of \$205,500 to pay for administrative costs. We used additional HAVA funds totaling approximately \$132,295.90 to pay for additional administrative costs, including staffing and associated expenses.

Planned Action: The expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment will require approximately \$391,937 in match money. This match will be provided through counties paying a portion of costs of precinct counters. The state plans to use approximately \$200,000 of the expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment for additional administrative costs.

Maintenance of Systems and the "What-Ifs"(page 21 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The state plans to use all of the \$9,150,000 Federal payment on the activities specified.

Planned Action: As noted above, the state will use all of the \$9,150,000 Federal payment. The state plans to have approximately \$1,346,803 of the expected \$7,446,803 Federal payment left over for ongoing maintenance not covered elsewhere in the budget and for other ongoing expenses.

Budget Breakdown: (page 21 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan:

APPROXIMATE ACTUAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

Voting Accessibility: \$360,000.00
Voter Education, Election Official and Poll Worker Training: \$1,435,989.37
Statewide Voter Management System: \$1,003,593.87
Precinct Counter Matching Funds: \$440,887.30
Administration Costs: \$132,295.90

TOTAL ACTUAL BUDGET EXPENSES: \$3,372,766.44
MONEY LEFT IN ACCOUNT (for future needs): \$5,777,233.56, plus interest

Planned Action:

2003 HAVA PLAN AS AMENDED ESTIMATED BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

\$9,150,000 FUNDS (Approximate Amount Remaining: \$5,777,233.56, plus interest)

Voting Accessibility: \$2,800,000.00
Voter Education, Election Official and Poll Worker Training: \$177,233.56, plus interest
Statewide Voter Management System: \$2,800,000.00
Precinct Counter Matching Funds: \$0.00
Administration Costs: \$0.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET EXPENSES: \$5,777,233.56
MONEY TO BE LEFT IN ACCOUNT (for future needs): \$0.00

\$7,446,803 EXPECTED FUNDS:

Voting Accessibility: \$2,500,000.00
Voter Education, Election Official and Poll Worker Training: \$500,000.00
Statewide Voter Management System: \$1,500,000.00
Precinct Counter Matching Funds: \$1,400,000.00
Administration Costs: \$200,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET EXPENSES: \$6,100,000.00
MONEY TO BE LEFT IN ACCOUNT (for future needs): \$1,346,803.00, plus interest

Maintenance of Expenditures (pages 21-22 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No change.

Planned Action: The secretary of state will maintain expenditures at a level equal to or greater than the level of such expenditures in state FY 2000. The secretary of state and counties will also continue to provide maintenance of effort.

Performance Goals and Measures (pages 22-26 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The survey on provisional ballots used county results instead of precinct results, due to the low number of provisional ballots and to avoid the possibility of voter secrecy being compromised in certain precincts. The public was not surveyed to determine their awareness of their voting rights and responsibilities; the low incidence of difficulties at the polling places indicated that their level of awareness was quite high.

After the initial 2004 primary election survey, Montana added more detailed questions for the 2004 general election survey, at the suggestion of interested groups. These questions helped the state to get an even more detailed picture of the election than was requested by the federal government in a similar election survey.

Planned Action: We will continue to satisfy the performance measures detailed in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan and will satisfy the performance measures listed in the Plan that are coming due in the future.

Administrative Complaint Procedures (pages 26-27 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No material changes.

Planned Action: No material changes.

Activities Under Title I Payments (pages 27-28 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The secretary of state did not act as contract administrator for purchases of systems to replace punch-card machines due to potential variations in the systems desired by the counties. The secretary of state is in the process of implementing the statewide system discussed in the plan, by the applicable deadline.

Planned Action: The secretary of state will implement the required statewide voter management system by January 1, 2006, through planned trainings, opportunities for all counties to voice concerns, comments, and support for the system, extensive testing of the system, and on-site installation of the system in each county.

Ongoing Management of HAVA Plan (page 28 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The secretary of state conducted a meeting in November 2003 to review the standards and goals of the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan, reviewed Plan procedures at an annual convention of election officials in September 2004, and conducted

meetings on March 17, 2005, and June 3, 2005 with Election Reform Advisory Committee members and county election administrators to solicit and review proposed amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan. This 2003 Montana HAVA Plan As Amended was submitted for public comment for at least 30 days.

Planned Action: This 2003 Montana HAVA Plan As Amended will be submitted for publication in the Federal Register.

Changes from the State Plan for the Previous Fiscal Year (page 29 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: This 2003 Montana HAVA Plan As Amended is the update to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan.

Planned Action: Summaries of the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan successes are attached as Appendix C. The state will submit the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan As Amended for publication in the Federal Register.

Election Reform Advisory Committee and Procedures Followed by the Committee (pages 29-30 of 2003 Montana HAVA Plan)

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No material changes.

Planned Action: The state will announce the locations where this 2003 Montana HAVA Plan As Amended is available and will again ask media groups to publish the plan or announce its availability. Additionally, as part of the Communication Plan adopted by the state we will contact the interested parties identified in that plan and advise them of the plan's availability.

Appendix A

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: No material changes.

Planned Action: The state has met or is on schedule to meet the requirements specified in Appendix A.

Appendix B

Amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan: The following bills relevant to HAVA passed during the 2005 legislature:

House Bill 177: <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/HB0177.htm>

House Bill 297: <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/HB0297.htm>

Senate Bill 88: <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/SB0088.htm>

Senate Bill 302: <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/SB0302.htm>

Senate Bill 500: <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/SB0500.htm>

Planned Action: The state will advocate legislation as needed in the future that is consistent with the provisions of HAVA.

Appendix C

Description of How Montana Succeeded in Carrying Out the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan

Section 301 Voting System Standards: Montana assisted a number of counties in purchasing precinct counters and initiated a statewide voter education program consistent with the goal of educating voters to request a new ballot if they overvoted or spoiled their ballots. Voter education materials were made available on request in multi-accessible formats and HAVA information was placed on the secretary of state's website. The secretary of state worked with county election administrators to ensure that they continued to provide instructions to voters that were tailored for each system used by the voters. Voter education information specific to HAVA was placed in the first few pages of the Voter Information Pamphlet sent to all voters.

Casting and Correcting Ballots: The state has continued to follow the procedures in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan and has strengthened its policies by purchasing precinct counters and through education programs. During the 2005 Legislative Session, the secretary of state successfully advocated legislation, in House Bill 177, to more clearly define whether a vote is counted, to define overvotes and undervotes, and to clarify the challenge provisions in state law.

Audit Capacity for Voting Systems: 2005 Legislative Update: Under HB 297, the 2005 Legislature has enacted the requirement that any approved voting systems must use a paper ballot that allows votes to be manually counted, except that a direct recording electronic system that does not mark a paper ballot may be used to facilitate voting by a voter with a disability under certain conditions. These conditions allow for the possibility that a direct recording electronic system that uses a paper ballot may not have been certified by the federal election assistance commission by the time of the purchase of the system, or a direct recording electronic system that marks a paper ballot may not have been approved by the secretary of state by the time of purchase. In either of these cases, the system must still record votes in a manner that will allow the votes to be printed and manually counted or audited if necessary.

Direct Recording Electronic Systems: Plans are in place to select a vendor for voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities and to implement the systems statewide.

Accessibility: In regard to access for the disabled, the secretary of state's office continued the ongoing efforts specified in the plan; contracted with the Montana Advocacy Program, which advocates for persons with disabilities, to provide funds and consulting services to help make more polling places accessible; and provided funding for the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities to provide transportation to the polls on election day. We also provided community-based organization grants to agencies that serve persons with disabilities to ensure that they could get the word out to their members and clients about these options. The secretary of state's office continued to provide alternative language accessibility and educated the public and election officials regarding HAVA accessibility requirements.

2005 Legislative Update: The Legislature passed Senate Bill 500, requiring that polling places approved on or after the effective date of SB 500 must comply with the accessibility standards in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The bill also provides that when an elector with a disability enters a polling place, an election judge will ask the elector if the elector wants assistance, and it allows election officials to accept a number of substitutes in place of a signature from an elector with a disability. Another bill, Senate Bill 88, which allows electors to request that absentee ballots be sent to them automatically, may especially help facilitate voting by individuals with disabilities.

Error Rates: Our error rates currently comply with the applicable error rate standards.

Rules and Laws: The Elections Task Force Committee proposed rules to define what constitutes a vote, and revised the voter registration forms to meet HAVA requirements. The legislative bills mentioned in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan were implemented successfully through numerous meetings with county election administrators, changes to applicable forms, directives to county election administrators, and extensive training and education.

2005 Legislative Update: The 2005 Legislature passed a number of bills to amend laws applicable to HAVA, including those discussed under Casting and Correcting Ballots, Audit Capacity for Voting Systems, and Accessibility. Additionally, pursuant to Senate Bill 302, as of July 1, 2006, people who do not register before the 30-day period before an election will be allowed to register and vote at the election administrator's office. Also, legally registered electors who do not provide identification and who do not fill out a verified identification form will have their votes counted if the county election administrator can verify their signature on their provisional ballot from their signature on file.

Section 302 Provisional Voting and Voting Information Requirements: County election administrators assisted with the trainings on provisional and identification voting and produced materials for use by counties. The provisional voting and identification requirements were fully implemented, with few concerns brought to the attention of the secretary of state, and the county election administrators and county election judges were trained extensively on the applicable procedures. The secretary of state produced and arranged for the airing of a series of related Public Service Announcements and provided grants to over 90 community-based organizations to provide information to their membership, their clients, and the general public.

The secretary of state prescribed forms for the counties to use in providing information to voters about casting regular and provisional ballots, information about identification, and general information on voting rights and federal and state law, and developed sample provisional voting instructions for counties to give to each provisional voter. The secretary of state developed a poster sent to county election administrators for all polling locations to provide information about the identification requirements.

The secretary of state contracted with the state Motor Vehicle Division to verify driver's license numbers given by people at the polling places as part of their form of identification. This was quite successful in reducing the number of provisional ballots. Counties notified voters in person, by mail and/or by phone to inform them whether their votes were counted.

Section 303 Computerized Statewide Voter Registration List: All current plans for the system are consistent with the intentions stated in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan. The state has selected a vendor and is in the process of testing the system.

Section 303 (b) Requirements for Voters Who Register by Mail: This part of the plan was fully implemented. At the suggestion of advocacy groups, the state revised the first amended form to specifically list all the acceptable forms of identification. Montana required identification of all voters, and the form states this requirement.

Requirements Payments: The state followed the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan, with minor changes consistent with HAVA provisions, as described in the amendments to the Budget Breakdown.

Programs for Voter Education, Election Official Education Training, and Poll Worker Training: The state has engaged in almost all of the activities proposed in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan, conducting extensive election administrator and election judge trainings and saturating the airwaves with information about identification and provisional voting. The secretary of state provided grants of \$5,000 each to over 90 community-based organizations to assist with education efforts. All counties received training videos and were offered and generally accepted in-person training. The secretary of state worked with educators to ensure that students and educators were aware of the changes to state and federal laws.

Voting System Guidelines: The secretary of state's office is on schedule for implementation of voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities in 2006. The secretary of state continues to meet most of the voting system requirements and will continue to create new procedures for standards under HAVA. The secretary of state has adopted language on what constitutes a vote.

HAVA Election Fund: As noted in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan, the secretary of state created an account for HAVA funds, and all spending of such funds has been in accordance with state and federal law.

HAVA Budget: Spending has been consistent with the budget in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan, with material amendments specified in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan As Amended.

Maintenance of Expenditures: The secretary of state maintained expenditures of the state for activities funded by the payment at a level equal to or greater than the level of such expenditures in state FY 2000. The secretary of state and counties provided maintenance of effort.

Performance Goals and Measures: The secretary of state fully implemented the punch card buyout, is in the process of selecting vendors for voting systems equipped for individuals with disabilities, selected a vendor for the statewide voter registration management system, implemented provisional balloting and surveys, and actively educated voters, election officials, and poll workers. Turnout was up 11 percent from the last presidential general election, and more voters cast ballots in the 2004 general election than ever before in Montana.

Administrative Complaint Procedures: The procedures were fully implemented by rules, with minor amendments.

Activities Under Title I Payments: As proposed in the plan, the secretary of state worked with county election administrators in the five remaining counties still using punch-card machines to replace the machines with optical-scan systems. The secretary of state is in the process of implementing the statewide voter registration management system discussed in the plan, by the applicable deadline.

Ongoing Management of HAVA Plan: The secretary of state conducted a meeting in November 2003 to review the standards and goals of the HAVA plan, another in September 2004 to further review state and county progress on HAVA, and conducted meetings on March 17, 2005 and on June 3, 2005 with Election Reform Advisory Committee members and county election administrators to solicit and review proposed amendments to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan.

Changes from the State Plan for the Previous Fiscal Year: The 2003 Montana HAVA Plan As Amended is the update to the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan.

Election Reform Advisory Committee and Procedures Followed by the Committee:

In addition to the steps outlined in the 2003 Montana HAVA Plan and completed at the time of the adoption of the Plan, the secretary of state announced the locations where the Plan was available and asked media groups to publish the plan or announce its availability as a public service announcement.

Appendix A: The state met or is on schedule to meet the requirements specified in Appendix A.

Appendix B: The secretary of state advocated legislation to better implement the provisions of HAVA.